

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A tape drive with a storage cartridge disposed therein, comprising:

a storage cartridge housing having:

an access window,

a single supply reel rotatably disposed within the storage cartridge housing and having storage tape wound on the supply reel, and

a guide surface disposed within the storage cartridge housing; and

a tape drive having:

at least a first guiding element,

a data transducer, and

a take-up reel, wherein

the storage tape extends from the supply reel to the guide surface before extending through the access window to the first guiding element, and

the storage tape is guided within the tape drive along a tape path passing adjacent a data transducer, and wound on the take-up reel, wherein the storage tape passes adjacent the data transducer along the tape path between the first guiding element and the take-up reel.

Claim 13 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the guide surface includes a rotatable surface.

Claim 14 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the guide surface includes a stationary surface.

Claim 15 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the guide surface includes a contoured surface.

Claim 16 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the storage cartridge housing includes only a single opening wherein the storage tape is accessible.

Claim 17 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the data transducer includes at least one of a read head and a write head.

Claim 18 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the guide surface is positioned within the storage cartridge housing to guide the storage tape away from the supply reel and then back to reengage the supply reel before extending to the access window.

Claim 19 (original): The device of claim 12, wherein the storage tape includes a leader block adapted to be releasably attached to the take-up reel.

Claims 20-28 (cancelled)

Claim 29 (currently amended): A method for driving a data storage tape cartridge, comprising the acts of:

receiving a data storage cartridge within a tape drive, wherein the storage cartridge includes a housing with a supply reel rotatably disposed therein and a guide surface; and

linearly streaming a storage tape along a tape path from the supply reel of the storage cartridge, adjacent a data transducer located in the tape drive, and to a take-up reel of the tape drive, wherein

the data transducer is located along the tape path between a first guiding element of the tape drive and the take-up reel of the tape drive, and

the guide surface lifts the storage tape from the supply reel to the guide surface before extending through the access window to the first guiding element

~~the tape drive includes a first guiding structure along the tape path from the cartridge,~~
and

~~the guide surface in the cartridge housing increases the tape path between the supply reel and the first guiding structure.~~

Claim 30 (original): The method of claim 29, wherein the guide surface includes a rotatable surface.

Claim 31 (original): The method of claim 29, wherein the guide surface includes a stationary surface.

Claim 32 (original): The method of claim 29, wherein the guide surface includes a contoured surface.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The method of claim 29, wherein the guide surface is positioned within the housing to guide the storage tape away from ~~[[the]]~~ a cartridge reel and ~~[[then]]~~ back to reengage the cartridge reel before extending to ~~[[the]]~~ an access window of the housing.

Claim 34 (original): The method of claim 33, wherein when streaming the storage tape, the storage tape becomes separated from the reel by a thin layer of air.

Claim 35 (original): The method of claim 29, further including a second guide surface disposed within the housing, wherein the storage tape extends to a second guide surface before extending to the access window.

Claim 36 (new): A tape drive with a storage cartridge disposed therein, comprising:

a storage cartridge housing having:
 an access window,
 a single supply reel rotatably disposed within the storage cartridge housing and
having storage tape wound on the supply reel, and
 a guide surface disposed within the storage cartridge housing; and
a tape drive having:
 at least a first guiding element,
 a data transducer, and
 a take-up reel, wherein
 the storage tape extends from the supply reel to the guide surface before
extending through the access window to the first guiding element,
 the storage tape is guided within the cartridge housing in a single direction
around the axis of rotation of the supply reel, and
 the storage tape is guided within the tape drive adjacent a data transducer, and
wound on the take-up reel.

Claim 37 (new): The tape drive of claim 36, wherein the storage tape is
guided adjacent the data transducer between the first guiding element of the tape
drive and the take-up reel.